IOM Report Defines Integrity in Research

Integrity in research is defined on the individual and institutional levels in the Institute of Medicine Report on *Integrity in Scientific Research: Creating an Environment That Promotes Responsible Conduct*

Individual Level
For the individual scientist, integrity embodies above all a commitment to intellectual honesty and personal responsibility for one's actions and to a range of practices that characterize the responsible conduct of research, including:

- intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research;
- accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports;
- fairness in peer review;
- collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources;
- transparency in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest;
- protection of human subjects in the conduct of research;
- humane care of animals in the conduct of research; and
- adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams.

Institutional Level
Institutions seeking to create an environment individual scientists and that fosters integrity structures, processes, policies, and procedures

- provide leadership in support of responsible conduct of research;
- encourage respect for everyone involved in the research enterprise;
- promote productive interactions between trainees and mentors;
- advocate adherence to the rules regarding all aspects of the conduct of research, especially research involving human participants and animals;
- anticipate, reveal, and manage individual and institutional conflicts of interest;
- arrange timely and thorough inquiries and investigations of allegations of scientific misconduct and apply appropriate administrative sanctions;
- offer educational opportunities pertaining to integrity in the conduct of research, and
- monitor and evaluate the institutional environment supporting integrity in the conduct of research and use this knowledge for continuous quality improvement.